

Serial No. **10/733,569**

Docket No. **P-0586**

Amendment dated June 7, 2007

Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 18 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner and his supervisor are thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative at the May 22, 2007 interview. The points discussed are incorporated herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-9, 11-18, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lloyd, U.S. Patent No. 5,002,184; claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lloyd in view of Murray et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,011,699; claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lloyd. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

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As tentatively agreed at the personal interview, independent claims 1, 9, and 18, as amended, define over the applied prior art. Dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10-17, and 19-23 are allowable over the applied prior art in view of their respective dependency on independent claims 1, 9, and 18, as well as for their added features. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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